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# THE MONITOR

A National Weekly Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Colored Americans

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\$1.50 a Year. 5c a Copy

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, JULY 21, 1917

Vol. III. No. 3 (Whole No. 107)

Lifting:  
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## WHAT THE AMERICAN NEGRO IS DOING

Announcement of program plans for the eighteenth annual convention of the Negro Business Men's league contains much of information that might be a revelation to some who have not kept close track of the progress of this element of our citizenship. It comprehends a list of activities that shows the Colored man to be pushing ahead in his own sphere with vigor and success. Capable and competent men of the race have established them-

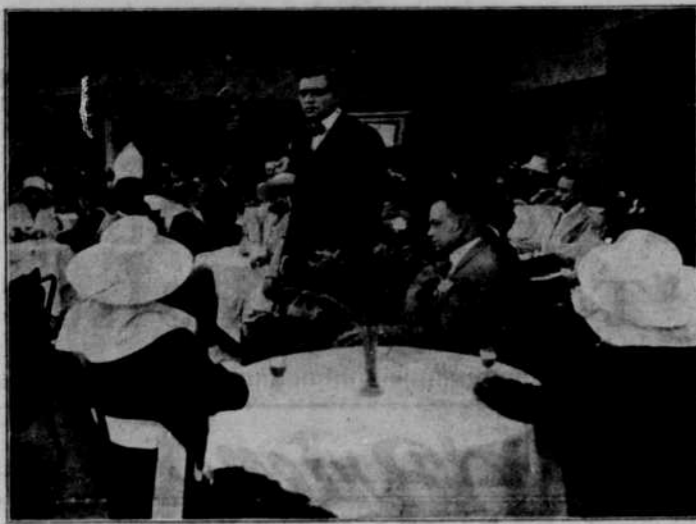
selves honorably in professional life and in industrial and commercial lines and by their own energy have made their positions permanent. These have aided in bringing up the more backward of their own race and thus the problem is being worked out. The American Negro is looking ahead to his own destiny, which runs parallel with and not counter to that of the white man. Actual accomplishment is the best possible test of ability and this has proven that color of the skin is not an insurmountable handicap in life.—Omaha Daily Bee.

## What Chicago Says of "The Law of Nature"

"Chicago Defender," July 14, 1917. "THE LAW OF NATURE"

The third and best of the Lincoln Motion Picture company's productions, "The Law of Nature," which is now being shown at the Chicago theatres, is a remarkable feature in more ways than one. The fact alone that the cast is entirely a Colored one should arouse interest, but couple it with the fact that the producing company is an

housekeeping. Agnes found that in the large city Jess did not seem as picturesque as in the west, even the arrival of a fine baby boy did not alter her discontent, and she finally deserts her husband for Bronson, who existed upon the earnings of any woman willing to support him. Jess returns to the ranch with the baby. Agnes is compelled by Bronson to work in a cafe and after a period of three years she is deserted by him while



SCENE FROM "THE LAW OF NATURE"

all-Race corporation, and that the scenario itself is from the pen of Noble M. Johnson, the Race's foremost screen star, and we have something that we may well be proud of. The leading characters are capably handled by Noble M. Johnson, Albertine Pickens, a former Chicagoan, Clarence Brooks, who was seen to excellent advantage in the company's two previous releases, and others of excellent ability. A short synopsis follows:

Agnes Vincent, graduate and society girl, accepts a position as gov-

ernment clerk in the west just in time to be forgiven, dying at her husband's feet.

The photography in this production is superb, and it is one of the strongest three-reelers ever shown on a local screen.

### LEADING EXHIBITORS

Manager George Paul of the States theatre, where "The Law of Nature" was given its first showing on Monday and Tuesday, was loud in his praises of the great Lincoln Motion Picture Co.'s third production.

"While I always considered 'Realization' and 'The Trooper' two of the best pictures of their kind, 'The Law of Nature,' I must admit, far outshines them. This feature is something to be proud of and should be a revelation to those skeptics who seem to have an idea that an All-Colored cast must necessarily use cork and comedy. This three-reeler tells a great story and the characters are portrayed in a manner which compares more than favorably with the best releases of what are considered the world's greatest producing companies. The photography is remarkable and at no time is there a chance for interest to lag. Book me for four days at the Washington and depend upon this: I will always be glad to set in the releases from the Lincoln company, as they are in a class by themselves and are what I would call real box office attractions."

N. Josephs, manager of the Lincoln theatre, where "The Law of Nature" is having a four days' run, had this to say on Wednesday night: "I used the two first releases of the Lincoln Co., and they proved to be all that Mr. Langston, the Chicago manager, claimed for them; but 'The Law of Nature,' which I am using at present, far surpasses any All-Colored production that has yet come to my notice; it is a remarkable picture and tells a story full of interest, and one that teaches a great moral. It is an artistic triumph and the large attendance here not only testifies to the public's interest in the Lincoln productions, but to the popularity of Noble M. Johnson, the great star, who never fails to pack the house to the doors. I have used all of this company's releases, and you can put me down for at least three days on anything they may send out in the future. I will also play a return on 'The Trooper of Troop K' at any time you may contract for my signature."



ALBERTINE PICKENS

ness to two small children living on a large ranch in the west. On the eve of her departure from the east she attends a party given in her honor, accompanied by Henry Bronson, an ardent admirer. She arrives safely at the Cross Bar ranch on a four-horse coach, and is warmly greeted by her employer and family. She is enraptured with her new environment and the novelty of her venture. A mutual admiration springs up between Agnes and Jess Allen, the foreman, which terminates in a quiet marriage at the justice of the peace's office.

Jess has a rival in the person of Pedro Lopez, who, to win the girl's favor, does many clever stunts with his lariat, but all in vain. At the end of the school season Agnes induces Jess to go east, where he secures a lucrative position, and they set up

## Where Are the Inalienable Rights of These Our Fellow Citizens?

The Omaha World-Herald's Ringing Editorial On the East St. Louis Massacre—Challenges America to Protect Her Own Citizens.

In its issue of July 5, the Omaha World-Herald, which is owned by Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock, had the following ringing editorial on the East St. Louis massacre:

The irony of it all! Fugitives from the barbarous mob violence that threatened them in the South, hundreds of Negroes reached this industrial town in Illinois, a Northern state—the state from which Abraham Lincoln was elected president—to make their homes and earn their livings.

And they found there, in violent and exaggerated form, the same racial prejudice, inflamed by the industrial prejudice of white men whose jobs they were bidding for, that has hurried and cursed them in the South.

In the night scores were murdered, including women and children—including even little babies. In a night hundreds of homes were burned over the heads of their humble occupants, and many perished in the flames.

It is not recorded that these Negroes had committed any crimes against white women in this Illinois town. It is not recorded, as an inciting cause, that they had been guilty of crime of any kind, other than that they had organized to fight mob with mob, and in the doing so had killed a policeman, member of a squad sent to disperse them. Their real offense, in the minds of their persecutors, was in coming where they were not wanted and in demoralizing the labor market.

Until the shame of East St. Louis has been wiped out and in some fashion atoned for it will not lie in the mouth of any Northern man or newspaper to launch any more sectional fulminations at the South for the wrongs it has heaped upon the blacks.

Until our governmental agencies, North and South, local, state and federal, have devised means for putting an end forever to these grisly, savage horrors of race violence, it will not become us to devote ourselves to anger and denunciation inspired by the tales of war-time barbarities in Europe. We cannot even, with good grace, continue to berate the kaiser and his aides for making of international law a scrap of paper so long as, without serious and concerted effort to stop it, we permit our own citizens to make of the constitution and the laws of our own land other scraps of paper. The horrors of East St. Louis are just as revolting as are those of Belgium, or Poland, or Armenia, or Serbia. There are crimes committed under the American flag

that are ghastly and there is blood on American soil that cries to God for vengeance!

They are not only our fellow citizens, these Negroes, with legal rights and liberties born in a great and bloody war. They are our wards, as well, the living reminders of the sins of our fathers. The race is not mingled with ours from choice. They are here because our fathers wrested their fathers from their homes, where God had planted them, and brought them here in chains to work in slavery and degradation that the glory and comfort and wealth of the republic might be nurtured in their blood and tears. It is we that have obliged them to live amongst us. It is we that have endowed them, of our own free will, with an equality before the law which we do not recognize in fact and which the law does not enforce for them. They are what we have made them. The problem they present is a problem of our own creation. The evils that spring from it are evils that lie at our door, not at theirs.

We celebrated, but yesterday, the ideals of democracy. We repeated, from thousands of platforms, our stock phrases about all men being created equal; about their being endowed with inalienable rights, among them life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Where are the inalienable rights of these, our fellow-citizens—the victims of our unforgivable national sin?

Where is the equal protection that should be afforded them in their lives, their liberty, their unobstructed pursuit of happiness?

When, since the great war was fought to right, in small measure, the wrong that had been done them—when have we white men of America, northern or southern, applied ourselves seriously and persistently to enforce upon ourselves the performance of our plain duty toward them?

Does the fact that the problem is hard—that men say glibly it is insoluble—does this lessen our responsibility or our guilt?

We have duties to perform at home as well as in Europe. And it is more clearly our duty to bring democracy, to bring safety and liberty, to our own oppressed than to the oppressed of other lands. Most of all we owe it to ourselves to prove to the world that we are not hypocrites mouthing phrases—for the Belgians—that mean little to us when it comes to applying them to our own foster-children.

## No Need For Nervousness

There was some nervousness on the part of a few of our people this week over a rumor that owing to the as yet unsettled teamster's strike in Omaha there was likely to be a race riot here similar to that in East St. Louis. The rumor started from remarks that were made by two white workmen employed on a house on Parker street when they saw a Colored man driving the truck of a local firm. Their incendiary remarks were overheard.

We do not believe there is any need for nervousness. Of course, as we have before stated, there is always the possibility of a "race riot" anywhere in this country until the MENTAL ATTITUDE OF THE WHITE MAN TOWARD THE BLACK MAN IS CHANGED. There is therefore the possibility, altho not the probability, of a "race riot" in Omaha, as in other American cities, at any time. It behooves us, in the face of such a possibility, to be prepared to defend our lives and our homes against unlawful and murderous attacks.

Let us hope that such need may never arise; let us do nothing to provoke it, but if the need should ever arise let us be prepared to protect ourselves.

Keep cool. Don't become excited. There are no conditions in Omaha to warrant a riot. No Negroes have come or been brought here in great numbers. Those who have come have

not come as strike breakers. The packing houses, the smelters and the railroads depleted by the call of foreign reservists to the colors have striven to fill these vacancies. The men who have come are industrious and law-abiding. They have come to work because they are needed. There is therefore not the slightest shadow of an excuse for even the suggestion of a "race riot." And of course, there was none in East St. Louis.

And yet we realize the possibility of some few foolish or hot-headed men of either race starting trouble. We therefore counsel our own people to exercise the utmost self-restraint and self-control under provocations to which they may be subjected; to be temperate in speech; mannerly and well-behaved; neat and cleanly in person and appearance, industrious and dependable wherever they may be employed. Thus we will do all in our power to avoid trouble. Then if trouble does arise, fomented by union labor, foreigners or anybody else, for which we are not responsible we can demand, and we believe secure, protection from the authorities. And especially so if we show our ability and preparedness to protect ourselves.

In the present time of unrest and disquietude, while there is need of carefulness, watchfulness and self-restraint, there is no need for nervousness or excitement.

## SERGEANT BAILEY VISITS DES MOINES TRAINING CAMP

Meets Many of His Old Comrades with Whom He Had Seen Active Service.

Sergeant Bailey and Master Bill Peebles visited the training camp at Fort Des Moines last Saturday and Sunday where the sergeant met more than a hundred of his old comrades with whom he had served in the West, Cuba and the Philippines. They were as glad to see him as they would have been to see their fathers. Sergt. Bailey was the guest of Sergt. and Mrs. Barrows from his old Troop. He also met some of the officers who made him welcome to the camp and excused Sergt. Barrows from all duties while Sergt. Bailey was in camp.

During his visit Miss Olive Smith of Des Moines gave a dinner party for Sergt. Bailey and a number of his old comrades at which Dr. Peebles and Master Bill were also guests.

Incidentally it may be mentioned here that Sergt. Bailey was with the command that rescued Roosevelt's Rough Riders in Cuba during the Spanish-American war.

## KNIGHTS AND DAUGHTERS OF TABOR HOLD GRAND SESSION IN OMAHA

The Knights and Daughters of Tabor held their Grand session here from Tuesday until Friday of last week. A large number of delegates were present from various parts of the jurisdiction. Reports showed the order in a sound financial condition and with a rapidly increasing membership.

One of the most successful sessions in the history of the order ended with a parade Friday afternoon to the auditorium where at night the public installation and drill and entertainment took place. The parade which elicited much favorable comment was led by four mounted Colored police, followed by the First Regimental band and the Sir Knights on foot. The ladies Taborean band led the large detachment of the Daughters of the Tabernacle, who rode in automobiles.

## NEARLY ONE MILLION NEGRO MEN REGISTER

Washington, D. C.—According to official figures just given out, 9,659,382 Americans registered for selective army draft, between the ages of 21 and 31, of whom 7,347,749 were white and 953,899 were Colored. The Indians who registered numbered 6,000.

The claim is made in some quarters that hundreds of Negroes who have no difficulty passing for white registered as white, some taking offense at the unnecessary reference to African descent printed on the corner of the registration paper, and others because they are known in their respective communities as Caucasians.

## LABOR AND HOUSING CONDITIONS IN BUFFALO

Buffalo, N. Y.—Notices are posted for one thousand Colored men to work as section hands on the railroad between Buffalo and New York. A new canning factory is also soliciting Colored help to can vegetables. Three thousand Colored people have come into the city during the past month. The housing conditions are said to be a disgrace. Something should be done by those in authority to relieve the situation.

## WORK OF RACE SCULPTRESS RECOGNIZED

Washington, D. C.—A head of a child, modeled by Mrs. Mary Howard Jackson, of this city, has been placed on exhibition in the lower loan room of the famous Corcoran Gallery of Art. "It is an admirable piece of work well constructed, nicely modeled and expressive, and it takes its place well among the works in this gallery by sculptors of more experience and greater reputation," says the Washington Star.

## AWARDED PRIZE FOR WRITING CLASS SONG

Miss Mary M. Gibson, '18, has been awarded prize for writing the best college song at Radcliffe College. The song will be included in the authorized college song book and will go down in history as Radcliffe's greatest number. Miss Gibson is the only Colored junior at Radcliffe.

The Monitor is growing. Help us grow.

## ANITA PATTI BROWN TO GIVE CONCERT

The people of Omaha are going to have the privilege of hearing one of America's greatest singers at Grove M. E. church Tuesday, July 31, in the person of Anita Patti Brown, who has but recently returned from a triumphant concert tour in British



ANITA PATTI BROWN

Guiana. The press and pulpit wherever she has appeared have spoken of her in the most laudatory terms. This will be Madame Brown's first appearance in Omaha and it is confidently believed that standing room will be at a premium for her concert. She will be assisted by some of Omaha's best local talent.

## Mayor Dahlman Issues Proclamation

Calls Upon Citizens to Discourage Vague and Disquieting Rumors.

Owing to certain absolutely groundless but disquieting rumors which have unnecessarily disturbed some of our people, Mayor Dahlman has issued the following proclamation:

Whereas, it has come to my attention, as well as to the attention of other citizens of the city of Omaha, that there are rumors afloat, more or less indefinite, to the effect that the city is being threatened with a race riot against the Colored people of the city, and

Whereas, all patriotic, law-abiding and good citizens deplore any such conditions, even though it does not go beyond the state of rumor, and

Whereas, rumors have been sufficiently circulated to cause some apprehension and fear among the Colored people of the city, now, therefore,

I, James C. Dahlman, mayor, proclaim it the duty of all law-abiding and self-respecting citizens to discourage and refute any such rumors when heard, and I especially appeal to those who might be incensed or excited by such rumors to use a calm judgment and deliberation which becomes the citizens of this city to prevent any undue excitement or mental agitation that might influence the minds of people to do things as a result of excitement or mere imagination, and I especially appeal to all dealers in firearms and ammunition to exercise discretion and caution at the present time in the matter of the sale of firearms to the end that they may not be placed in the hands of irresponsible or unduly agitated persons.

And I further assure the public that every precautionary step is being taken by the city officials and especially all members of the police department to prevent the carrying of concealed weapons and that any person found carrying the same will be dealt with as one violating the laws of the state of Nebraska, as well as the ordinance of the city, inasmuch as the carrying of such weapons is forbidden by law, and I feel that the people of the city of Omaha cherish too highly the good name of this city to permit of any incident to stain that reputation as has sometimes occurred in other places as the result of undue excitement and lack of deliberate forethought.

JAMES C. DAHLMAN, Mayor.